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# Governor O'Malley Declares Thursday, October 2, 2014 'O's Orange Day' in Maryland

October 1st, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – In honor of the Baltimore Orioles advancing to the American League Divisional Playoffs, Governor O'Malley is proclaiming Thursday, October 2, 2014, 'O's Orange Day' in Maryland. O'Malley is encouraging Maryland state government employees to wear orange to work in support of the Orioles post-season run.

Proclamation text is as follows:

### **Governor's Proclamation Declaring Thursday, October 2, 2014 as O's Orange Day in Maryland**

Whereas, the Baltimore Orioles, and manager Buck Showalter, prevailed against all odds to win the American League East Division championship for the first time in 20 years; and

Whereas, the Baltimore Orioles and their legion of fans soared across the country and battled to a 96-66 regular season record, while adopting the mantra, "We Won't Stop;" and

Whereas, the Baltimore Orioles are seeking to cage the Detroit Tigers in the American League East Division Playoffs at Camden Yards; and

Whereas, Orioles baseball is a Maryland tradition like Old Bay, crabs, and the Star Spangled Banner; and

Whereas, Orioles fans, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, from Southern Maryland to Northeast, have black and orange fever and will support our high-flying Birds throughout their 2014 playoff run; and

Whereas, Buck's Birds will be relentless and "We Won't Stop" in our pursuit of a World Series championship.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim OCTOBER 2, 2014 as O's ORANGE DAY in MARYLAND, and do commend this celebration and encourage all citizens to wear

## Releases

orange throughout the MLB playoffs.



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0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Maryland Awarded Five-Year \\$650 Million Federal Demonstration Project to Improve Child Safety, Prevent Abuse and Reduce Need for Foster Care](#)  
[What new features of Maryland.gov do you use the most?](#) »

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- [2007 Press Releases](#)

# 'Governing for Results' Series Recognizes Nearly 500 Maryland Schools Meeting School Breakfast Participation Goal

October 9th, 2014

**BALTIMORE, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School in Baltimore to share breakfast with students and emphasize gains Maryland schools have made in providing school breakfast to students. The visit is the latest event in the ['Governing For Results'](#) series, a statewide initiative to promote the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals](#), with today's event highlighting progress towards [ending childhood hunger in Maryland](#).



Since the 2008 launch of the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has worked with non-profits, advocates, business leaders, and others to connect more children to federal nutrition programs, including school breakfast. Through private funding, technical assistance, outreach, and increased State investment in the Maryland Meals for Achievement program (MMFA), hundreds of additional schools have connected nearly 70,000 additional children to a school breakfast.

"Increasing access to a school breakfast is one of the most effective actions we

## Releases

can take to prepare our students to learn and achieve every single day,” said **Governor O'Malley**. “In Maryland, we came together to overcome barriers to participation because we believe that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander and that every child deserves a healthy start to their day.”

Maryland is now serving more than 170,000 free or reduced-price school breakfasts on an average school day, a 65 percent increase since November 2008, and continues to see breakfast participation grow at one of the fastest rates in the country. Franklin Square Elementary/Middle, a participant in MMFA, is one of 475 schools in Maryland that has achieved the Governor's participation goal of 70 percent.

“Programs like the one here at Franklin Square show how successful breakfast in the classroom can be when a school community makes it a priority,” said **Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Gregory E. Thornton**. “I am proud of our 62 schools that have met the Governor's participation goal, and Baltimore City Public Schools remains committed to providing our students with the nutrition they need to succeed in the classroom.”

To promote breakfast and incentivize community involvement, late last month, the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland launched the Maryland Breakfast Challenge, a competition open to all Maryland public schools that will reward those that show the largest increases in breakfast participation. The challenge, spearheaded by non-profit Share Our Strength and the Maryland State Department of Education, launched on September 19th with events in 19 of Maryland's 24 counties.

“We are thrilled at the response we have received to the Maryland Breakfast Challenge,” said **Dr. Lillian Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools**. “Hundreds of our schools, including those that have already met the Governor's goal, have signed up and demonstrated their continued commitment to ensuring each child starts a school day ready to learn.”

Principals and administrators can sign up or find out more about the Maryland Breakfast Challenge at [marylandbreakfastchallenge.org](http://marylandbreakfastchallenge.org). Schools have until November 1 to enroll, and winners will be announced in March 2015.



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [What new features of Maryland.gov do you use the most?](#)  
[Governor O'Malley Continues 'Governing For Results' Tour at Stream Restoration Site with Howard County Students](#) »

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# Governor O'Malley Continues 'Governing For Results' Tour at Stream Restoration Site with Howard County Students

October 14th, 2014

**ELLICOTT CITY, MD** – Today, as part of his commitment to restoring the Chesapeake Bay, Governor Martin O'Malley visited an active stream restoration project along the Upper Little Patuxent in Ellicott City to continue the '[Governing for Results](#)' tour by focusing on Maryland's commitment to restoring the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The tour is a series of events focused on the State's performance management efforts, doing what works to address emerging challenges and the O'Malley-Brown Administration's [16 strategic goals](#) to move Maryland forward.

"In Maryland, we're investing in restoring our Chesapeake Bay for all of those who depend on her for recreation or for a livelihood, and projects such as restoring streams have a direct and immediate positive impact on the bay's health," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We stand on the threshold of a tipping point in which the bay can once again flourish and all of us are partners in reclaiming the Bay."



Joining Governor O'Malley along the Upper Little Patuxent River stream restoration

## Releases

project to observe techniques used to restore a degraded stream were: students from Hollifield Station Elementary Schools; Chesapeake Bay Foundation Maryland Executive Director Alison Prost; State Highway Administrator Melinda Peters; Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Assistant Secretary of Aquatic Resources David Goshorn; and Maryland Department of Environment Deputy Secretary David Costello.

"The Chesapeake Bay is an integral part of who we are as Marylanders – our heritage, our economy and our culture," said **U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee**. "These investments in the health and future of the Bay are investments in the communities that depend on the Bay, supporting jobs today and jobs tomorrow. I will continue to fight to protect the Bay, Maryland's greatest natural resource, and the lives and livelihoods that depend on it."

"The Chesapeake Bay is an iconic part of Maryland's culture and an integral part of our economy," said **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Water & Wildlife Subcommittee**. "We're all in this together. No one source or single sector bears all the blame for degraded water quality in the Bay. But with the support of robust state and federal investments, if we all continue work together, we will see even more progress and leave our children a Chesapeake Bay that is healthier than it is today. A healthy Bay means a healthy Maryland."

"We must all do our part to keep the Chesapeake and its tributaries clean," said **Howard County Executive Ken Ulman**. "Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown have shown strong leadership in moving forward with important projects that protect streams, prevent erosion and keep pollution out of our waterways. Howard County is partner in that effort, with more than 50 active treatment projects to limit pollution in the works. I am excited when we can see the results of our commitment, like we are experiencing today."

Governor O'Malley explained that this \$1.7 million stream restoration is one of thousands of environmental projects getting underway in the next six years (FY 2015 to FY 2020) as part of a \$600 million funding package announced today. Through the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) will restore 62,513 linear feet of streams; plant more than 679,000 trees on 2,717 acres; remove 76 acres of pavement; upgrade 13 stormwater outfalls; and construct and upgrade 1,780 stormwater treatment facilities to improve the quality of water running off pavements and surfaces.

This \$600 million investment, combined with a previous \$72 million investment in similar projects in FY 2013 and FY 2014, will help SHA achieve significant strides in reaching its 2025 goals to reduce pollutants reaching the Bay. By 2020, SHA will reduce the amount of pollutants annually entering the waterways by: 6.5 million pounds of sediment, 113,000 pounds of nitrogen and 13,000 pounds of phosphorus.

"Today, Maryland is continuing to lead by example through this stream restoration and the hundreds of projects announced today that will greatly enhance our collective efforts to restore the Bay," said **Chesapeake Bay Foundation Maryland Executive Director Alison Prost**. "From working together in the legislature as part

of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint to encouraging the next generation to protect the Chesapeake Bay, Maryland is a great partner for the environment. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's recent report demonstrates that these investments will provide us a healthier environment and a stronger economy."

Sonal Sanghavi, SHA's Director of Environmental Design, led the group on a tour of the stream providing a great view of the before, in progress and completed stream restoration project. The tour included observing crews re-grading the embankments and using trees removed from the degraded banks to stabilize the stream bed. This restoration creates natural pool areas to reduce the velocity of storm water racing through the tributary. Following the tour, the students from Hollifield's 5th grade "Earth Force Team," participants in DNR's Explore and Restore Your School Shed, joined Governor O'Malley and others to install erosion control material along the new stream bed. The governor and students helped to roll out burlap matting that will stabilize the soil and protect newly planted vegetation.

The \$600 million investment includes: \$13.7 million in Federal funding, \$190.1 million from the Transportation Trust Fund, and \$395 million in General Obligation Bonds as outlined in the Transportation Act. These investments are part of Maryland's overall efforts to meet the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load requirements by 2025.

Maryland is leading the way in meeting its goal of reaching the Healthier Bay Tipping Point by 2025. The tipping point is the stage at which progress within the Bay and its tributaries can begin to promote self-healing. Maryland has made great progress to reach a Healthier Bay Tipping Point, by: expanding Cover Crop plantings by 229% from 124,000 acres to 410,000 acres; increasing stormwater retrofits driving up the amount of nitrogen pollution removed from our waterways by 196.6% from 74,700 pounds in 2006 to 221,500 in 2013; and expanding the use of natural filters on Private Lands by nearly 40% from 2006 to 2013.

Today's event touched on the Administration's strategic vision for [bay restoration](#) and the investments available to move projects forward in addressing a cleaner, more productive Chesapeake Bay. The O'Malley-Brown Team is committed to a [healthy environment](#) and is the first state to require environmental literacy for all K-12 students. Maryland has taken critical measures in reducing the effects of climate change. Maryland has now implemented one of the most proactive greenhouse gas emissions goals in the nation.

'[Governing for Results](#)' is a statewide effort to promote the O'Malley-Brown Administration's [16 strategic goals](#) and highlight Maryland's progress in the areas of opportunity (jobs and schools), sustainability, public safety, and health. Kicked off in early June, these events highlight some of the different strategies the Administration is using to make Maryland a safer, healthier place with more jobs and opportunity for all Marylanders.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« ['Governing for Results' Series Recognizes Nearly 500 Maryland Schools](#)

[Meeting School Breakfast Participation Goal](#)

[Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce \\$600,000 Growth](#)

[Investment in Rockville-Based Technology Firm »](#)

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# Governor O'Malley, Lt. Governor Brown Announce \$600,000 Growth Investment in Rockville-Based Technology Firm

October 15th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – The [Maryland Venture Fund](#) (MVF), the equity investment arm of the Maryland [Department of Business and Economic Development](#) (DBED), has invested \$600,000 in Rockville-based [Motionsoft](#), a leading provider of management software to gyms and fitness clubs. The investment comes as part of a \$10 million Series B investment round led by Route 66 Ventures and included Edison Ventures as a co-investor. The State of Maryland's investment is part of a multifaceted effort led by Governor Martin O'Malley to stimulate growth and job creation among high-tech startup companies in Maryland.

"We're growing Maryland's economy by investing in education, innovation, and infrastructure," **Governor O'Malley** said. "Today's investment is part of our focus on innovation — we are committed to supporting our entrepreneurs, innovators, startup companies and small businesses like Motionsoft because, in addition to being the future leaders of our economy, they are creating the jobs of today and tomorrow."

"By investing in high-tech startups like Motionsoft, we're ensuring that Maryland is a state where businesses want to stay and grow while also creating family-supporting jobs for our highly-trained workforce," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "The Maryland Venture Fund plays an important role in supporting our cutting edge startups, and we will continue to support our small business owners and entrepreneurs to help them create jobs and grow Maryland's economy."

"Maryland's high-tech community is growing rapidly thanks to Governor O'Malley and MVF's investment focus," said Al Noshirvani, CEO of Motionsoft. "This investment from the Maryland Venture Fund allows Motionsoft to continue to capture the attention of top talent that drives our market growth and innovation. This is something we can all be proud of."

Motionsoft's leadership in member relationship management software (MRMS) and payment services is redefining health club management while enabling fitness operators to connect better with their members. For more information on Motionsoft, visit [www.motionsoft.net](http://www.motionsoft.net)

## Releases

The Maryland Venture Fund is a regionally recognized leader in seed and early-stage investing and a national model for state-supported investment programs. With nearly two decades of experience and numerous successful investments, MVF invests in highly innovative technology companies across the full range of industry sectors including software, communications, cybersecurity and life sciences companies in the areas of healthcare IT, medical devices and diagnostics.

### About DBED

The Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development stimulates private investment and creates jobs by attracting new businesses, encouraging the expansion and retention of existing companies, and providing workforce training and financial assistance to Maryland companies. The Department promotes the State's many economic advantages and markets local products and services at home and abroad to spur economic development and international investment, trade and tourism. For more information, visit [business.maryland.gov](http://business.maryland.gov).



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Continues 'Governing For Results' Tour at Stream Restoration Site with Howard County Students](#)  
['Governing for Results' Series Focuses on Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland](#) »

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# 'Governing for Results' Series Focuses on Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland

October 16th, 2014

**ARNOLD, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today visited the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to announce the state has awarded \$2.3 million in grants to organizations across Maryland under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The grants from the STOP ([Services\\*Training\\*Officers\\*Prosecutors](#)) VAWA Formula Grant Program will fund 73 projects by 57 organizations in every region of the state.

"One of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals is driving down violence against women and children," said **Governor O'Malley**. "By working together with law enforcement personnel, our Congressional delegation, and state and local officials, we've driven down violence against women and children by 26 percent since 2006."

The YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is one organization receiving VAWA funding to provide victim services programs for survivors of domestic violence. The Governor's visit is the latest in the '[Governing For Results](#)' series, a statewide initiative to promote the [O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals](#), with today's event highlighting progress towards [reducing violent crimes against women and children](#).

## Releases



"While we've made progress in our efforts to reduce violent crimes against women and children, we will not stop working until every Marylander is free from fear," said **Lt. Governor Brown**. "Through this STOP VAWA funding, our new laws to protect victims, and the hospital-based domestic violence programs we've launched across Maryland, we continue to make critical progress in the fight against this senseless crime."

When the O'Malley-Brown Administration took office in 2006, it set a [goal](#) of driving down violent crime against women and children by 25 percent by 2012, compared to 2006 levels. Juvenile homicides were driven down 44 percent between 2006 – 2012 and female homicides were driven down 9 percent, reaching a total 26 percent drop from 2006 levels. In 2013, the O'Malley-Brown Administration renewed its commitment by setting a [new goal](#) to drive down violent crime against women and children an additional 25 percent by 2018, compared to 2012 levels.

The primary purpose of STOP VAWA funding is to support a multifaceted approach to responding to violence against women through implementation of grant programs. By forging partnerships among police, prosecutors, judges, victim advocates, health care providers, faith leaders and others, VAWA-funded programs help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while improving communities' capacity to hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

"No woman should live in fear that her husband or boyfriend will hurt or kill her or her kids," said **U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski**, Chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee that funds VAWA programs, including STOP grants. "If you are beaten and abused, you should have somewhere to turn for help and a path to recovery. As Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue to fight for strong investments in programs to combat domestic abuse, dating violence and sexual assault and to help rebuild lives."

“A strong federal-state partnership through VAWA is saving lives and protecting survivors of domestic violence throughout Maryland. Still too many in our community – too many of our neighbors – continue to suffer in silence, too afraid or ashamed to ask for help,” said **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin**. “We will keep fighting so the victims of domestic violence can take back their lives and start down a healing path while getting the legal, medical, and financial support needed to rebuild their lives free from fear and violence.”

“I was proud to be a cosponsor of legislation that reauthorized VAWA last year as well as a cosponsor of the original VAWA legislation,” said **Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5)**. “Support services to help victims of domestic violence and their families, including these STOP VAWA grants, have a critical impact on victims, their families, and our local communities in the Fifth District and throughout our state.

Ensuring a wide range of victim service programs and community resources are readily available is an important step in combating and preventing domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as assisting victims as they heal and seek justice.”

“The VAWA program is an important and effective resource in the fight against domestic violence across Maryland,” said **Congressman John Sarbanes (MD-03)**. “By providing resources to impactful organizations such as YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County – the county’s oldest social service center for women and families – we can help reduce violence against women and children in our homes and in our communities.”

In Maryland, law enforcement priorities for STOP VAWA funds include specialized training for officers in domestic violence, sexual assault and dating violence; specialized units or positions such as bilingual officers and domestic violence investigators, and the implementation of policy and personnel relating to protective orders and firearms. For prosecutors, the funding provides training on domestic violence, the appointment of prosecutors to focus full-time on domestic violence cases, and bilingual and culturally competent staff.

“I was proud to partner with the O’Malley-Brown Administration and the Anne Arundel County YWCA to identify funding this past session for the construction of a new and much-needed domestic violence shelter in Anne Arundel County,” said **Speaker Mike Busch**, “and I am equally proud to stand with them today in announcing additional funding for domestic violence services. These grants, along with the groundwork we have laid over the past 8 years, will foster cooperation among government and non-profit service providers and help us continue to make progress in combatting domestic violence in our State.”

“VAWA grants have been essential to Maryland’s programs to help survivors of domestic violence and protect them from their abusers,” said **Tammy Brown, the Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP)**, which administers VAWA grants in the state. “These programs have been a lifeline for families to be able to get the treatment and help they need to heal from the devastating trauma of domestic violence and sexual assault.”

Thirty percent of STOP VAWA funds are committed to non-profit victim service providers who offer victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence core services that are sensitive to their needs and safety. These services include crisis intervention, legal services, medical accompaniment, bilingual hotlines



and safety planning, as well as resources to courts that provide legal representation to victims of intimate partnership violence who are seeking court protection.

“The YWCA of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County is incredibly grateful to the O’Malley-Brown Administration for its support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault,” said **Molly Knipe, Executive Director of the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**. “Funding from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention helps allow the YWCA to serve almost 10,000 clients annually through the domestic violence safe house shelter, hospital accompaniment, legal representation in peace and protective orders, domestic violence and sexual assault hotlines, and licensed therapy.”

During the O’Malley-Brown Administration, GOCCP has administered over \$68.5 million in grant funding to agencies addressing domestic violence and sexual assault. Since 2010, the Administration has more than doubled the number of hospital-based domestic violence programs. Currently there are 10 hospital-based programs statewide.

Maryland also offers the [Victim Information & Notification Everyday \(VINE\) program](#), which allows individuals to check the status of an offender day or night, and [Vine Protective Order \(VPO\)](#), a separate, critical service to victims of domestic violence. VPO automatically notifies the petitioner, victim advocates, and law enforcement when a protective order has been served, which is one of the most dangerous times for victims, and keeps them informed throughout the process.

On October 2, 2014, three new laws that expand protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault went into effect in Maryland. These new laws, which were O’Malley-Brown Administration bills, include:

- Changing the standard of proof to allow Maryland Courts to issue a final peace or protective order from “Clear and convincing evidence” to a “preponderance of the evidence” , ensuring that more victims of domestic violence have access to the protections they need;
- Changing existing law to make it easier for survivors of domestic violence to obtain final permanent protective orders, and adding second-degree assault to the list of crimes that qualify a person to obtain a permanent final protective order;
- Enhancing the penalties for a person who commits a crime of violence in the presence of a child in a home.

Under the leadership of the O’Malley-Brown Administration, [violent crime in Maryland has been driven down to the lowest rate in nearly 40 years](#). In 2013, the number of female and juvenile homicide victims was down 26.2 percent since 2006.



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[Return to main discussion page](#)

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# Governor O'Malley Updates Public on Ebola Preparations

October 17th, 2014

**BALTIMORE, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley led a team of hospital and other health officials to update the public on the Maryland's efforts to protect its communities against infectious diseases, including the Ebola virus.

To date, there have been no cases of Ebola diagnosed in Maryland.

"We are not taking this situation lightly," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We are working together across agencies, with our federal and local government and community partners, and with Maryland hospital officials to prepare aggressively so that we can keep Marylanders safe."

At the briefing, Maryland officials reviewed preparations, guidance, and training for the emergency management system, medical offices, emergency departments, and inpatient facilities. Hospital officials from Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland provided updates on efforts underway throughout their institutions.

"We must support the safety of front line healthcare workers as we prepare for a possible new case of Ebola virus infection," said **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH)**.

In September, Secretary Sharfstein issued an order requiring communication and coordination between healthcare providers and the health departments on all suspected cases of Ebola. DHMH has one of 13 labs authorized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test for Ebola. Maryland also receives detailed data from Emergency Departments and absenteeism data from its schools to continually monitor trends in health.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is coordinating the State's overall Ebola response. MEMA has established a virtual joint information center so information and guidance can be shared across state agencies including Transportation, Corrections, and State Police. Governor O'Malley brought various agencies together to conduct a tabletop exercise in August, and MEMA is convening regular meetings to review the latest information and plan for a wide range of possible scenarios. Earlier this week, Governor O'Malley, DHMH officials, the Maryland Secretary of State, and representatives from various congressional offices met with leaders of the African diaspora community to discuss solutions,

## Releases

including efficient information-sharing and efforts to combat the disease in Africa.

DHMH has launched a website devoted to Ebola at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola> and DHMH Secretary Sharfstein has written all state employees with basic information about the virus.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [‘Governing for Results’ Series Focuses on Combating Domestic Violence in Maryland](#)

[Maryland Secures Nearly \\$10 Million USDOL Workforce Training Grant](#) »

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# Maryland Secures Nearly \$10 Million USDOL Workforce Training Grant

October 17th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – The U.S. Department of Labor announced that Maryland was awarded \$9,995,047 as part of the \$170 million Ready to Work Partnership initiative to support and scale innovative collaborations between employers, nonprofit organizations and federal job training programs to help connect ready-to-work Americans with ready-to-be-filled jobs.

Maryland was recognized for its innovative approach to workforce development, particularly the state-funded, demand-driven [EARN Maryland initiative](#). Led by the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation (AAWDC), Maryland Tech Connection has designed a comprehensive training program that provides strong industry engagement and specialized career services to help long-term unemployed return to work. The services will be driven by a robust outreach and assessment component.

“There is no progress without a job, and job-driven training programs like the Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation’s Maryland Tech Connection help drive our efforts to achieve our strategic goal of increasing skills training by 20 percent by 2018,” said **Governor O’Malley**. “We’re doing the things that work to connect more Marylanders with the skills training they need to get un-filled, in-demand jobs. This award from our federal partners validates our work and will boost our efforts to strengthen and grow our economy.”

“This federal grant award reflects the progress we’ve made building the strongest workforce in the nation, but there’s still work to be done,” said **Lt. Governor Brown**. “Through initiatives like EARN Maryland, we’ll continue partnering with our business community to help more Marylanders get the skills and credentials they need to qualify for quality jobs, while ensuring our companies can compete in a 21st century global market.”

“Through EARN Maryland, the state invests in employer-led skills training initiatives in some of our most high-demand sectors. We’re thrilled to see additional job-driven training opportunities coming to Maryland to further cultivate skilled workers needed by Maryland employers,” said **Maryland Department of Labor Secretary Leonard Howie**.

“Maryland Tech Connection will use a job-driven system and a comprehensive

## Releases

wrap-around services structure to address the unique barriers of Maryland's long-term unemployed. The program will give participants the necessary technical skills and industry certifications employers are looking for paired with hands-on experience through our twenty-two business partners to ensure they are competitive when entering the workforce," said **Kirkland J. Murray, President and Chief Executive Officer of Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation.**

Maryland Tech Connection (MTC) will serve 975 individuals through intensive coaching and job placement services, short-term occupational training, and career pathways skills training. 85 percent will be long-term unemployed, 10 percent will be individuals unemployed over 19 weeks, and 5 percent will be incumbent workers.



0



0



[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Governor O'Malley Updates Public on Ebola Preparations](#)  
[Maryland Health Officials, Hospitals Set Ebola Strategy](#) »

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# Maryland Health Officials, Hospitals Set Ebola Strategy

October 23rd, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today that Maryland health and hospital officials have agreed upon a coordinated strategy for caring for potential Ebola patients. No cases of Ebola have been diagnosed in Maryland to date. Under the strategy (1) all hospital emergency departments in the state will continue to be prepared to evaluate patients suspected of having Ebola; and (2) should a case of Ebola be confirmed, the patient would be treated at one of three designated hospitals, if no federal facility is available.

This strategy was developed through a partnership among the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), the Maryland Hospital Association, Johns Hopkins Health System, MedStar Health, and the University of Maryland Medical System, with support from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). According to the strategy, a potential Ebola patient in Maryland who could not be treated at one of the designated federal facilities would be cared for at one of three hospitals that are being further prepared with focused support, training, and equipment. The hospitals are:

- Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore;
- University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore; and
- MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C.

"Maryland has the best medical facilities anywhere in the world," **Gov. O'Malley said**. "We are working closely with our federal partners and with hospital officials to be as prepared as we can be."

"This consolidated, coordinated, response provides the best opportunity to treat Ebola patients successfully and prevent the disease from spreading further, should we have any cases in Maryland," said **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of DHMH**.

**Carmela Coyle, president and CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association**, said Maryland's hospitals are proud to care for all those in need, including those suffering from Ebola. "Johns Hopkins, MedStar and the University of Maryland Medical System have demonstrated their commitment to caring for the most vulnerable patients, by stepping forward to care for those afflicted with Ebola. They are further preparing to meet this challenge, should the need arise."

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According to the details of the strategy, all Maryland hospitals will screen patients to identify those who potentially have Ebola, will isolate any potential cases, and will work with the state's public health laboratory to quickly confirm whether Ebola is present. If a case is confirmed, DHMH will work with the CDC to determine whether a federal facility is available to treat the patient. If a federal facility is not available, then DHMH will coordinate with the three health systems in Maryland to determine where to transfer the patient for care.

A consolidated approach to Ebola treatment offers several advantages:

- Nurses and doctors at consolidated locations, with the aid of intensive training, will develop greater proficiency in treating the unique needs of Ebola patients and in the intricate safety measures necessary to prevent exposure.
- Using fewer Ebola treatment sites ensures that the communication and operationalization of the latest information from state, federal, and international health agencies is streamlined.
- Caring for an Ebola patient requires many specially trained medical staff, complex waste management procedures, a significant quantity of personal protective equipment, and other resources; by consolidating care, Maryland's health care providers are better able to deploy personnel and resources.

Maryland officials have been focused for months on preparing aggressively to keep Maryland families safe. Governor O'Malley brought various agencies together to conduct a tabletop exercise in August, and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has been coordinating the overall response, convening regular meetings to review the latest information and planning for a wide range of possible scenarios. In September, Secretary Sharfstein issued an order requiring communication and coordination between healthcare providers and the health departments on all suspected cases of Ebola. DHMH has one of 13 labs in the United States authorized by the CDC to test for Ebola.

DHMH has conducted two October press conferences to discuss the public health system's preparedness for potential cases of Ebola — the more recent of which was led by Governor O'Malley. MEMA has established a virtual joint information center, so information and guidance can be shared across state agencies including Transportation, Corrections, and State Police.

DHMH, since the summer, has been coordinating its automated biosurveillance system, which uses traditional and nontraditional data sources to provide early identification of disease outbreaks and suspicious patterns of illness, with Virginia's and the District of Columbia's; in early October, that daily-monitored coordination was expanded to include input from Tarrant County, Texas's data system to identify Ebola disease symptoms, as well as other keywords related to Ebola including travel history.

Earlier last week, Governor O'Malley, DHMH officials, the Maryland Secretary of State and representatives from various congressional offices met with leaders of the African diaspora community to discuss solutions, including efficient information-sharing and efforts to combat the disease in Africa. The health department also established an informational webpage last week, <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola>, to augment its continual social media messaging and to provide information for the general public and for frontline healthcare workers.

### Quotes from Johns Hopkins Health System, MedStar Health, and University of Maryland Medical System

- “Johns Hopkins Medicine has experienced, internationally renowned emergency and infectious disease specialists and we are prepared to leverage that expertise to help address the needs of the State of Maryland and the Nation.” — **Ronald R. Peterson, president of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System and EVP for Johns Hopkins Medicine.**
- “MedStar Health has been working for the past three months to prepare for this potential public health threat. We look forward to continued collaboration with our community health partners at Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland Medical System. We are committed to dedicating all necessary resources to protect the health of our communities, while taking all measures to protect the safety of our associates.” — **MedStar Health Executive Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer Stephen R.T. Evans, MD**
- “A cross-functional team has been preparing our Ebola response plans focusing on delivering the safest and best care for our patients and staff utilizing a dedicated care team in a designated isolation area of our hospital.” — **Jeffrey A. Rivest, President and CEO, University of Maryland Medical Center**
- “Through research into an Ebola vaccine and clinical preparedness in the hospital, we are working hard to contribute to the worldwide effort to fight this virus and advance Maryland’s preparedness.” — **E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.**

### **About the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

*The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene works to protect and promote the health of the public by promoting healthy people and healthy communities. Stay connected: Follow [@MarylandDHMH](#) on Twitter and “like” [MarylandDHMH](#) on Facebook.*

### **About the Maryland Hospital Association**

*The Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) is the advocate for Maryland’s hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans’ hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit [www.mhaonline.org](http://www.mhaonline.org).*



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# Maryland Named a Top Ten State for Energy Efficiency for the 4th Year in a Row

October 24th, 2014

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – For the fourth consecutive year, Maryland has been named a top ten state by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). Its annual State Energy Efficiency scorecard benchmarks the progress of state energy efficiency policies and programs. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, Maryland has risen from the #20 spot in 2006 to its current position at #9.

Governor O'Malley has made energy efficiency a priority. One of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 16 strategic goals is [reducing both per capita peak demand and per capita electricity consumption in Maryland by 15 percent by 2015](#). As of 2013, peak demand is down 14.6 percent and per capita consumption is down 10.1 percent. Additionally, as a result of the State's energy efficiency efforts, Marylanders have saved \$3.2 billion in lifetime energy costs.

"Maryland's top ten leadership position recognizes the progress our State has made by setting real energy efficiency goals with specific deadlines, measuring our performance openly for all to see, and driving real results for the people we serve," said **Governor O'Malley**. "Reducing energy costs and consumption helps our State build a stronger economy and a more sustainable energy future."

The ACEEE cites Maryland's commitment to state-led energy efficiency programs, in particular the [EmPOWER Maryland](#) initiative, which aims to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by 2015, as a significant factor in determining its top ten ranking.

The scorecard names Maryland as a leader in incorporating energy efficiency into government operations, reducing energy use in public buildings, and utilizing energy service companies to finance and deliver energy-saving projects. Under the O'Malley-Brown Administration, 21 Energy Performance Contracts have been implemented, helping Maryland achieve contractually guaranteed energy and operational savings of approximately \$310 million over the life of the contracts.

Maryland made significant progress on the scorecard by ramping up its utility programs and delivering above average electricity savings, as well as implementing statewide building energy codes. Regionally, Maryland tops its neighbors in Virginia,

## Releases

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The ACEEE measures six primary policy areas that typically pursue energy efficiency, including utilities, transportation, building codes, heat and power policies, government-led energy-efficiency initiatives, and appliance standards.

The American Council for Energy-Efficient Economy acts as a catalyst to advance energy efficiency policies, programs, technologies, investments, and behaviors.



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[Return to main discussion page](#)

« [Giving Back to our One Maryland Governor O'Malley Announces Policy for Active Monitoring of All Returning Travelers from Countries Affected by Ebola Outbreak](#) »

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# Governor O'Malley Announces Policy for Active Monitoring of All Returning Travelers from Countries Affected by Ebola Outbreak

October 27th, 2014

**BALTIMORE, MD** – Governor O'Malley announced that starting Monday, October 27, Maryland will directly monitor the health of all returning travelers from the countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, which are battling a serious Ebola outbreak. This effort will build on extensive outreach and monitoring already underway by the state and local health departments of the state.

"We are taking aggressive action to keep Marylanders safe," said **Governor O'Malley**. "We are monitoring comprehensively, and if someone does fall ill with Ebola, we have a plan in place to identify the condition, isolate the patient, provide care safely, and contain the spread of infection."



Under the plan, screeners at the airports of entry will provide the names and contact information for all travelers from the affected countries with destinations in Maryland. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will make contact through a new outbound call center and provide specific guidance, information, and 24-hour numbers for assistance.

## Releases

The state will coordinate daily contact with the travelers during the 21 days following the last possible exposure when illness might develop. The state will work with local health departments to conduct direct outreach as needed. Should a traveler need medical attention, health officials will provide advance direction to the emergency management system for transport and the local hospital for evaluation. Maryland's public health laboratory is available 24 hours a day for Ebola testing.

"Every day, public health workers in Maryland reach out to patients with such diseases as tuberculosis and meningitis," said **Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**. "Our plan for Ebola builds upon the strong and proven foundation."

The policy includes specific provisions for health care workers who are returning from caring for Ebola patients.

Individuals at high or some risk of infection will sign agreements outlining certain restrictions, and other travelers will receive daily monitoring and will be alert for signs and symptoms of possible infection. At any time — in case of noncompliance, or if necessary for the public health — the state may issue a specific public health order.

The level of monitoring and restrictions, including planned and unannounced home visits, will be based on the potential risk. Specifically:

- Home restriction for individuals at "high risk." Individuals with a known exposure to Ebola virus, such as through a splash of body fluid on exposed skin or a needle-stick injury will remain at home for the 21-day period and will be closely monitored.
- Activity restriction for individuals at "some risk." Health care workers who were wearing personal protective equipment during care for patients with Ebola virus are at "some risk." They will refrain from attending mass gatherings and using public transportation, will refrain from traveling long distances without approval from health department officials, and will also be closely monitored by state and local health officials.

Governor O'Malley and Maryland's public health officials worked closely with their counterparts in Virginia and the District of Columbia so all three jurisdictions are executing active monitoring policies that are compatible.

### Statements of Support

"We are pleased to see the measured approach that Maryland is implementing to assess healthcare workers returning from West Africa. We applaud the efforts of these healthcare workers who are putting their personal safety at risk and want to ensure that they are appropriately monitored to protect themselves and the citizens of Maryland."

– **Dr. Paul Rothman, Dean of the Medical Faculty, CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine**

"The University of Maryland Medical System supports this balanced science-based approach. We also appreciate the cooperative engagement among the three health systems and DHMH in our state-wide preparedness effort."

– **Jeffrey Rivest, President and CEO of the University of Maryland Medical**

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"MedStar Health fully supports the policy expressed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding healthcare workers returning from volunteer work in West Africa. It is a well thought-out approach that balances the important work being done by caregivers from our region working relentlessly in the affected areas of West Africa to care for those with Ebola with the imperative of protecting the health of our community."

– **Dr. David Mayer, Vice President, Quality and Safety, MedStar Health**

"The Maryland Hospital Association supports the state's newly announced policy for health care workers returning from the affected countries of West Africa (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leon) who provided care to critically ill Ebola patients.

Developed with the input of hospitals and clinical epidemiology experts in the state, the policy is based on the scientific and clinical evidence available to date about the Ebola virus. The state's policy strikes a critical balance between the need to closely monitor potential high- and medium- risk health care workers, and the need to have the right number of health care providers available to quell the virus at its source in West Africa and to take care of potential Ebola patients here in Maryland"

– **Carmela Coyle, Executive Director of the Maryland Hospital Association**

## About the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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